

# TRIPS WORTH TAKING

The Pacific Northwest is blessed with dozens of ski resorts and towns within easy striking distance. Where you go depends on what you're after, but here are three that are worth planning a long weekend to visit.

## A DIFFERENT RESORT TOWN: SUN VALLEY, IDAHO

### SUNVALLEY.COM

For Seattleites, Whistler is usually the go-to spot for a luxury holiday experience. But those looking for something new should check out the resort town of [Sun Valley, Idaho](#).

Like Whistler, there's something for everyone in every season. In the summer, the town offers mountain biking, hiking and dirt-bike riding. In the winter, the slopes draw world-class skiers, and excellent cross-country, snowshoe, backcountry and heli-ski opportunities abound.

But it's the town itself that makes Sun Valley so special. The location is stunning — it's in a valley surrounded by mountainous federally owned land. And while some high-end resort areas can feel pretentious and unwelcoming to many people, Sun Valley is an eclectic mix of ski bums, ranchers and fur-clad jet-setters.

During ski season, shuttle buses link the towns of Ketchum and Sun Valley, taking skiers right to the lifts and eliminating parking hassles and traffic jams. While there is no night skiing,

Sun Valley is famous for its *après* ski options, which call skiers directly to local watering holes such as The Pioneer Saloon, Apple's Bar and Grill, and Grumpy's after hitting the slopes.

### IF YOU GO

Direct flights from Seattle on Alaska Airlines start at \$335 round-trip. Slopes are generally open from Thanksgiving weekend through April; lift tickets cost \$80 per day (including tax). The Sun Valley Inn, a beloved destination with a long history, is a good lodging option. The sprawling complex has a mixture of hotel rooms and condos, a golf course, a symphony and a year-round ice rink.

Jeff Layton



Mission Ridge

CHRISTINE SMITH



Anthony Lakes

BILL PEAL



Sun Valley

SUN VALLEY RESORT

